

Indicator RECOMMENDED	Packs of Cigarettes Taxed per Capita
<b>Justification</b>	More than 400,000 deaths each year are attributed to cigarette smoking, making it the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S. Smoking increases the risk of heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic lung disease. Environmental tobacco smoke has been shown to increase the risk for heart disease and lung cancer among nonsmokers. Careless smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires in the United States.
<b>Definition</b>	Number of packs of cigarettes taxed at the wholesale level by each state per capita age 18 and older
<b>Data Source</b>	Data on wholesale distribution of cigarettes by states provided by the University of California at San Diego Social Sciences and Humanities Library as compiled from The Tax Burden on Tobacco annual volume for 2002 (numerator) and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census (denominator)
<b>Frequency</b>	Annual
<b>Geographic Levels</b>	National and State
<b>Demographic Categories</b>	None
<b>Strengths</b>	This indicator is consistently defined and readily available from archival data for all states and for many years. It provides an independent measure of a population's consumption of cigarettes.
<b>Limitations</b>	Average consumption levels may not be sensitive in identifying areas with a high prevalence of heavy use where there are also high rates of abstinence. Estimates may be inflated due to consumption by non-residents (e.g., tourists and other visitors). Untaxed cigarettes (e.g., products that are smuggled or homemade) are not captured in this indicator.